Rice and Beans

Jerome Berglund

Rice and Beans:

desk haiku and armchair senryū

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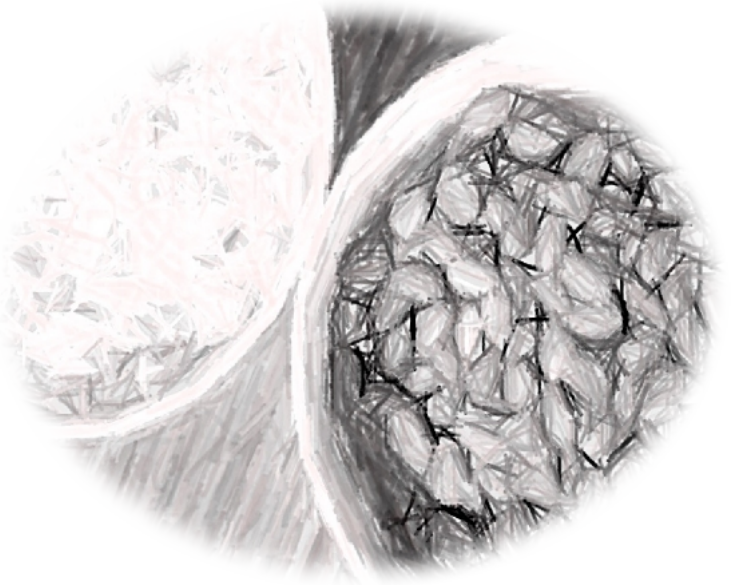

"A writer or painter cannot change the world. But they can keep an essential margin of nonconformity alive."

– Luis Buñuel

"I am resolved to struggle against everything and everybody."

– Emiliano Zapata

"Always revolutionary, never dead, never useless."

– Frida Kahlo

"The life of a single human being is worth millions of times more than all the property of the richest man on earth."

– Che Guevara

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."

– Dolores Huerta

"Poetry is an act of peace. Peace goes into the making of a poem as flour goes into the making of bread."

– Pablo Neruda

Essential Margin

scales
shade his eyes
zero visibility

Colors Magazine

power lines
in a long row
the road to Rome

Asahi Shimbun

shark fin
protrudes
spoils the air

Riot Magazine

new territories
free market goes door to door
introducing itself

American flag as
a woman, wrists bound at her side
crying out for help

finger puppet
on barrel of a rifle
fireside chats

antique store *this way because it's the best way?*

any story
we're not the bad guys
creative writing

HAIKULIFE: THE HAIKU FOUNDATION VIDEO PROJECT

tree protruding
from black plastic
spring cleaning

a lot of blood in sucking

Broken Spine Arts

nature
without politics
backyard garden

winding the elephant put a little english on it

Periwinkle Pelican

doodlebugging soldier of fortune

Cold Moon Journal

And Everybody

shouting over one another bumper stickers in conversation

Poetry Pea

allegedly everything true

H. Gene Murtha Memorial Senryu Contest

swarms of faceless
slavering beasts

coming in waves

standing in
for whom, to whom
always ask

spriggan
so long as it's
our monster

Suspect Device

CAUCASIAN

Bamboo Hut

* “The use of the term Caucasian to label people descended from Europe is a relatively new and arbitrary practice in human history. The word was not passed down from the ancients but rather sprang from the mind of a German professor of medicine, Johann Friedrich Blumenbach, in 1795. He spent decades studying and measuring human skulls...in an attempt to classify the varieties of humankind. He coined the term ‘Caucasian’ on the basis of a favorite skull of his that had come into his possession from the Caucasus Mountains of Russia. To him, the skull was the most beautiful of all that he owned. So he gave the group to which he belonged, the Europeans, the same name as the region that had produced it. That is how people now identified as white got the scientific-sounding yet random name ‘Caucasian’”

Isabel Wilkerson, “*Caste - The Origins of Our Discontent*”

starched collar the crimes are silent

Chewers and Masticadores

behind a church
numerous bodies
buried

the idea
of a less educated
voter must
presume strictly
classifying classrooms

fascism:
in traditional currency
or crypto?

Failed Haiku

shareholders
drinking
from the skull cup

all
that learning
brandy manhattan

DEADLY ORGONE RADIATION

classical music
to underscore
a missile strike

french bakery anywhere bread smells good

Longfellow Nokomis Messenger

Never Useless

through smudged window:
pool of blood
signs of a struggle

there was only
one twin all along
seasonless

Zen retreat
the angry form
with a machine gun
less discussed
in San Francisco

same snow
across history
pony trap

statecraft fifty two pickup

Five Fleas

peaceful transition continuity department

Chewers and Masticadores

double fisting exceptionalism

Periwinkle Pelican

fly I failed to shoo
from frigerator: what are
you doing to our food

evangelizing specifies his pronoun is *herr*

locally sourced reins preserving the union

Coffee and Conversations

open
still painted
on the boards…

WAIT

it tells you
very loudly

Bamboo Hut

the glamour
is lifted, hiring
a rickshaw

hot mic
in the back room:
killed them all, of course

Millions of Times

irradiated populations
not eradicated
over the dog years

New Verse News

meme template
infinitely replicable
hooded sweatshirt

blue anise sage
the permanent marker
calls for justice

Starbeck Orion

ice dams
too big
to fail

filter paper who they cast to play the king

Dreadnought SF

single combat human resources

Failed Haiku

long night
countless cameras
nobody sees a thing

égalité
they eat
horses here

bible belt
center
mass

New Verse News

burgundy region
be there in
half a tick

Big Windows Review

maybe they'll
send help back
ten of swords

LOTHLORIEN

red ants
throwing bodies
at the menace

Why
is shovel so small?!
Better ways…

Every Minute

one way
the sign states
desperately

Asahi Shimbun

tongue on platter
other parts somewhere distant
western dressing

Culinary Saijiki

modern rest area weighing station

Pan Haiku Review

proxy war
trig homework

Pan Haiku Review

helpfully debunking conspiracy theories conspirators

Five Fleas

alphabet soup gotcha journalism

Five Fleas

who is owner running the microchip

kingdom builders roofing and gutters

block of fudge
when things show you
what they are

Colors Magazine

just not in the Champs-Élysées police clarify

Periwinkle Pelican

a loop at the memorial left, right, left

Periwinkle Pelican

democracy dies in darkness get unlimited access

Periwinkle Pelican

castle walls common sense

Five Fleas

coyote
accepts retainer…
wolf and goat problem

Metachrosis

daggers
in the silence
rolling average

Captain Planet
to form
requires many rings

Metachrosis

folding cranes
winter mix
hand tamped

Asahi Shimbun

farmers
staring up into the sky
we wait

As Flour

stench
of pig manure
first melt

coming down wet
the snow doesn't stick
regime change

You and what army?
…Stalin's predominantly
as I recall

CoalitionWorks

in one hand
eldest holds an axe
many others

manhunt
through my head:
sooey

peeling off price tags a new year

green goddess dressing the part

LOTHLORIEN

disgruntled suffragette
invents tech: critics carry
fetuses to term

kicking my seat
over and over:
the next generation

Asahi Shimbun

bag of pepperoni d i v e s t m e n t

the pen
demonstrates its might
requisitioning arms

Coin-Operated Press

slappin' bones third world solutions

Periwinkle Pelican

hyperdontia
the crown's
final season

Setu Bilingual Journal

collectivism crimping the ends

Piker Press

in the bag
no regrets

Litmora

happiness is messy
finger painting
home

record snowfall
hills have melted some
can see over them

the hindu pantheon
is the greek pantheon
is the norse pantheon

Failed Haiku

sponge bread
in the salad bowl
one big union

amidst damp sand
of normandy
private admires a birdcall

Creative Inspirations

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about the author

A graduate of the University of Southern California's Cinema-Television Production program, Jerome Berglund spent a picaresque decade in the entertainment industry before returning to the Midwest where he was born and raised. Until recently he resided in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis which was locus of the George Floyd protests, his writing as often as possible strives to engage with significant social and economic concerns of our day that align with missions of decolonization and abolition across prevailing institutions. He has been involved in grassroots activism for the causes of Occupy Los Angeles, Standing Rock, and the Black Lives Matter movement, supported outreach efforts promoting the Green party.

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